

REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application in light of the amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants thank the Examiner for pointing out that claims 55, 61 and 67 contain allowable subject matter if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicants have rewritten claims 55, 61 and 67 as invited by the Examiner, taking care to address the informality objected to in claim 57 and implicitly in claim 50. Applicants respectfully request allowance of claims 55, 61 and 67.

Status of the Claims

Claims 46-68 are pending, with claims 1-45 having been previously cancelled. Claims 46, 50, 54-57, 61, 62, 65 and 67 have been amended. Claims 48, 51-53, 58, 59 and 68 have been canceled. No new matter has been added.

Objection for Informalities

Claims 51-53, 57, 58, 59, 62 and 68 have been objected to as containing informalities.

Regarding claim 57, Applicants have deleted the words "definition to select." The same phrase appears in claim 50, which had not been objected to by the Examiner, and the same words have similarly been deleted from claim 50. The phrase "to select" was deleted from claim 65 as well. Withdrawal of the objection to claim 57 is respectfully requested.

Regarding claim 62, Applicants, have amended the claim to provide antecedent basis for each feature and further to address the Examiner's objections.

Regarding claims 51-53, 57, 58, 59 and 68, these claims have been canceled.

manufacturing parts, and have added a step to the claimed method to recite calculating the amount of manufacturing parts. This change is fully supported by the Specification. Dependent claim 54, formerly dependent on canceled dependent claim 51, has been modified to depend directly from claim 50, from which claim 51 had depended. With respect to dependent claims 54-55, Applicants submit that these claims depend directly or indirectly from independent claim 50 discussed above and should be allowed at least for the same reasons discussed for the base claim. Withdrawal of the rejection of claims 50 and 54-55 under 35 U.S.C. § 102 is respectfully requested.

Regarding independent claim 56, the system of this claim corresponds to the method of claim 50. Applicants have amended claim 56 similar to claim 50, by adding additional details of the steps the processor is configured to perform: to recite calculation of the amount of manufacturing parts, and actions to take upon receipt of an order containing specified design options. With respect to dependent claims 57 and 60, Applicants submit that these claims depend directly or indirectly from independent claim 56 discussed above and should be allowed at least for the same reasons discussed for the base claim. Withdrawal of the rejection of claims 56, 57 and 60 under 35 U.S.C. § 102 is respectfully requested.

Regarding independent claim 62, the Examiner rejected this claim based on a rationale similar to that used to reject claim 48. Claim 48 in turn depends on claim 46. Applicants have amended claim 62 similar to claim 46, by amending the preamble of claim 62 to recite that the computer program is configured to perform the steps of determining the amount of manufacturing parts, a step to recite calculating the amount of manufacturing parts and a step reciting the code rule and its usage. This change is fully supported by the Specification. With respect to dependent claims 63 and 64, Applicants submit that these claims depend directly from independent claim 62 discussed above and should be allowed at least for the same reasons discussed for the base claim. Withdrawal of the rejection of claims 62-64 under 35 U.S.C. § 102 is respectfully requested.

Regarding independent claim 65, the Examiner rejected this claim based on Hedin. Claim 65 is a claim directed to a programmable medium containing a computer program, similar to the computerized method claimed in claim 50. Applicants have amended the preamble of claim 65

to recite that this is a method is for determining the amount of manufacturing parts, and have added a step to the method to recite calculating the amount of manufacturing parts. This change is fully supported by the Specification. Dependent claim 66 depend directly from independent claim 65 and should be allowed at least for the same reasons discussed for the base claim. Withdrawal of the rejection of claims 65 and 66 under 35 U.S.C. § 102 is respectfully requested.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 54, 60 and 66 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Hedin.

Claims 54, 60 and 66 depend from claims 50, 57 and 65, respectively. The base claims, as amended are submitted to be patentable over Hedin. Accordingly, claims 54, 60 and 66 are patentable for at least the same reasons as their base claims.

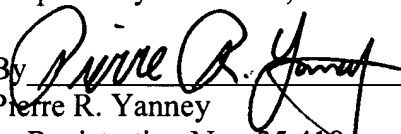
CONCLUSION

Each and every point raised in the Office Action dated March 8, 2006 has been addressed on the basis of the above amendments and remarks. In view of the foregoing it is believed that claims 46, 47, 49, 50, 54-57 and 60-67 are in condition for allowance and it is respectfully requested that the application be reconsidered and that these pending claims be allowed and the case passed to issue.

If there are any other issues remaining which the Examiner believes could be resolved through a Supplemental Response or an Examiner's Amendment, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number indicated below.

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Respectfully submitted,

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